

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claim 10 is appreciatively noted as is the provisional allowance of dependent claim 6. Since the limitations of dependent claim 6 have now been added to independent claim 1, it is presumed that all remaining claims 1-5 and 7-9 are also now in fully allowed condition.

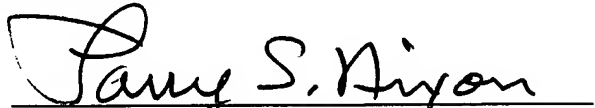
The rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Skinner et al. '348 and the rejection of the same claims as allegedly anticipated by Hamada et al. '303 are both respectfully traversed. However, since these grounds of rejection have now been mooted, it is not believed necessary to further discuss the reasons for such traversal at this time.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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